

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
BUREAU OF REGULATORY SERVICES**

In re: Karen Howard, LCSW

Petition No. 970829-058-006

CONSENT ORDER

WHEREAS, Karen Howard of East Windsor (hereinafter "respondent") has been issued license number 001243 to practice social work by the Department of Public Health (hereinafter "the Department") pursuant to Chapter 383b of the General Statutes of Connecticut, as amended; and,

WHEREAS, the Department alleges that:

1. While providing clinical services to a client who was involved in proceedings with the Family Relations Office, respondent made statements about the client's spouse (who was not respondent's client) to the Family Relations Office that did not provide adequate attribution as to source and nature of the information provided.
2. The above described facts constitute grounds for disciplinary action pursuant to the General Statutes of Connecticut, §20-195p.

WHEREAS, respondent, in consideration of this Consent Order, has chosen not to contest the above allegations of wrongdoing but, while admitting no guilt or wrongdoing, agrees that for purposes of this or any future proceedings before the Department of Public Health (hereinafter "the Department"), this Consent Order shall have the same effect as if proven and ordered after a full hearing held pursuant to §§19a-14 and 20-195p of the General Statutes of Connecticut.

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to §§19a-14, 19a-17 and 20-195p of the General Statutes of Connecticut, respondent hereby stipulates and agrees to the following:

1. Respondent waives her right to a hearing on the merits of this matter.
2. Respondent's license shall be placed on probation for a period of one year under the following terms and conditions:
 - a. Respondent shall obtain at her own expense, the services of a licensed clinical social worker, pre-approved by the Department (hereinafter "supervisor"), to conduct practice supervision, to review all cases in which clients are involved with judicial agencies or other official protective service entities, to ensure that information provided is substantiated.
 - (1) Respondent's supervisor shall meet with her not less than once every month for the entirety of her probationary period.
 - (2) The supervisor shall have the right to monitor respondent's practice by any other reasonable means which he or she deems appropriate. Respondent shall fully cooperate with the supervisor in providing such monitoring.
 - (3) Respondent shall be responsible for providing written supervisor reports directly to the Department quarterly for the entirety of the probationary period. Such supervisor's reports shall include documentation of dates and duration of meetings with respondent, number and a general description of the patient records reviewed, additional monitoring techniques utilized, and a statement that respondent is practicing with reasonable skill and safety.
 - b. Within the first eleven months of the probationary period, respondent shall attend and successfully complete course in ethics and/or standards of practice for social

workers offered either by an educational institution or the professional association for social workers which course shall be pre-approved by the Department. Within thirty days of the completion of such coursework, respondent shall provide the Department with proof, to the Department's satisfaction, of the successful completion of such course(s).

3. All correspondence and reports are to be addressed to:

Bonnie Pinkerton, Nurse Consultant
Department of Public Health
Division of Health Systems Regulation
410 Capitol Avenue, MS #12HSR
P.O. Box 340308
Hartford, CT 06134-0308

4. All reports required by the terms of this Consent Order shall be due the tenth business day of every third month.
5. Respondent shall comply with all state and federal statutes and regulations applicable to her licensure.
6. Respondent shall pay all costs necessary to comply with this Consent Order.
7. Any alleged violation of any provision of this Consent Order may result in the following procedures at the discretion of the Department:
- a. The Department shall notify respondent in writing by first-class mail that the term(s) of this Consent Order have been violated, provided that no prior written consent for deviation from said term(s) has been granted.
 - b. Said notification shall include the acts or omission(s) which violate the term(s) of this Consent Order.
 - c. Respondent shall be allowed fifteen (15) days from the date of the mailing of notification required in paragraph 7a above to demonstrate to the satisfaction of the

Department that she has complied with the terms of this Consent Order or, in the alternative, that she has cured the violation in question.

- d. If respondent does not demonstrate compliance or cure the violation by the limited fifteen (15) day date certain contained in the notification of violation to the satisfaction of the Department, she shall be entitled to a hearing before the Department which shall make a final determination of the disciplinary action to be taken.
 - e. Evidence presented to the Department by either the Department or respondent in any such hearing shall be limited to the alleged violation(s) of the term(s) of this Consent
- 8. In the event respondent violates any term of this Consent Order, said violation may also constitute grounds for the Department to seek a summary suspension of her license before the Department.
 - 9. Legal notice shall be sufficient if sent to respondent's last known address of record reported to the Licensure and Registration Section of the Division of Health Systems Regulation of the Department.
 - 10. This Consent Order is effective on the first day of the month immediately following the date this Consent Order is accepted and ordered by the Department.
 - 11. Respondent agrees that this Consent Order shall be deemed a public document, and the Department's allegations as contained in this Consent Order shall be deemed true in any subsequent proceeding before the Department in which her compliance with this Consent Order or with §20-195p of the General Statutes of Connecticut, as amended, is at issue.

12. Any extension of time or grace period for reporting granted by the Department shall not be a waiver or preclude the Department from taking action at a later time. The Department shall not be required to grant future extensions of time or grace periods.
13. This Consent Order and terms set forth herein are not subject to reconsideration, collateral attack or judicial review under any form or in any forum. Further, this Order is not subject to appeal or review under the provisions of Chapters 54 or 368a of the General Statutes of Connecticut, provided that this stipulation shall not deprive respondent of any rights that she may have under the laws of the State of Connecticut or of the United States.
14. This Consent Order is a revocable offer of settlement which may be modified by mutual agreement or withdrawn by the Department at any time prior to its being executed by the last signatory.
15. Respondent permits a representative of the Legal Office of the Bureau of Regulatory Services to present this Consent Order and the factual basis for this Consent Order to the Department. Respondent understands that the Department has complete and final discretion as to whether this executed Consent Order is approved or accepted.
16. Respondent understands and agrees that she is responsible for satisfying all of the terms of this Consent Order during vacations and other periods in which she is away from her residence.
17. Respondent has the right to consult with an attorney prior to signing this document.

I, Karen Howard, have read the above Consent Order, and I stipulate and agree to the terms as set forth therein. I further declare the execution of this Consent Order to be my free act and deed.

Karen Howard, LCSW
Karen Howard, LCSW

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 12th day of January 1999.

BONNIE CASSARINO
NOTARY PUBLIC
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES MAY 31, 2001

Bonnie Cassarino
Notary Public or person authorized
by law to administer an oath or affirmation

The above Consent Order having been presented to the duly appointed agent of the

Commissioner of the Department of Public Health on the 19th day of January
1999, it is hereby ordered and accepted.

Cynthia Denne
Cynthia Denne, Director
Division of Health Systems Regulation

howardco/
jpl



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

February 24, 2000

Karen S. Howard, LCSW
38 Post Road
Enfield, CT 06082

Re: Consent Order
Petition No. 970829-058-006
License No. 001243
DOB [REDACTED]
Completion of Probation

Dear Ms. Howard:

Please be advised that the probationary terms of the above-referenced Consent Order have been satisfied, effective 02/01/2000.

Notice will be sent to the Department's Licensure and Registration section to remove all restrictions from License No. 001243, related to the above-referenced Consent Order,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Richard Goldman".

Richard Goldman
Paralegal Specialist II
Division of Health Systems Regulation

cc: Debra Tomassone, PHSM
Bonnie Pinkerton, RNC



Phone: (860) 509-7400
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